System Configuration Team (SCT)

Meeting Notes
August 26, 2004 – Portland, OR

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The August 26 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

2. Portland and Walla Walla District FFDRWG Actions.

Rock Peters said Portland District FFDRWG met August 13. He noted first that a problem with radio-tag frequencies has been resolved; the existing frequencies will be maintained for the next three to five years, but eventually, the Corps' radio-tag frequencies for research will need to be changed, at a cost of about $500,000.

Peters noted that the B2 corner collector detection system is not performing as hoped; the prototype tests are not going well, a problem the Corps is trying to resolve by the end of August. There is a potential for delay in the development of a working system. At the meeting, the group also discussed adult studies (website will be available in early September, and will provide information on the 1996-'97 data). With respect to the B2 trash rake, Peters said the contract for installation has been delayed until next year, because the project has identified some design concerns. Dredging and trash rack replacement have been completed. Plans and specs are now complete on the Bonneville adult PIT system, with contract award scheduled in September. Washington shore will be completed in FY'05, Bradford Island in FY'06. The group also discussed lamprey; a policy-level workshop is scheduled for October 23, to discuss the development of a lamprey management plan. The Dalles survival study was also discussed, with positive preliminary results presented, although vortex problems were observed in the forebay of Bay 6. There was general FFDRWG agreement to get underway on fixing the vortex problem as

soon as possible; Peters said FFDRWG will report back to the SCT on the cost and schedule of this work as soon as possible.

At the meeting, the FFDRWG group also discussed:

- The Dalles decision framework (a schedule for completion of the decision analysis was laid out at a subsequent meeting on August 24)
- The Dalles forebay passage improvements (30% BGS feasibility has been completed; the group discussed the feasibility of testing a guidance structure, such as a log boom)
- the John Day decision document (scheduled to be available by the end of 2004, after the update on John Day survival studies is made available; will require a very significant effort on the Corps' part)
- the Bonneville survival program (preliminary passage results presented)
- the B2 corner collector (additional issue fixes are needed; costs and requirements should be available soon)
- B2 JBS follow-on (no major concerns about structural integrity or hydraulic performance at this time).

The next Portland District FFDRWG was scheduled for October 28.

Marvin Shutters said the Walla Walla District FFDRWG will meet next on November 3-4. At the group's last meeting, the group discussed the following major topics:

- The McNary modernization program (prototype redesign necessary; installation delayed to the winter of 2007/'08)
- McNary screen bypass system (further one-unit test next year with a new ESBS perf plate)
- McNary spill gate issue (all of the hoists are working harder than rated to lift the gates; four gates will be rehabilitated next year to make them easier to lift)
- RSW update (Ice Harbor to be operational by March 20; contractor slightly ahead of schedule; special SRWG schedule to be scheduled to discuss post-construction evaluation. Lower Monumental RSW design is underway.)
- Lower Monumental parapet wall (on schedule for completion by this spring)
- McNary forebay and collection channel temperature investigation (fluid dynamics model is nearly complete and will be tested in the next few months; a special meeting will be convened to discuss this issue)
- Lower Monumental outfall model study – the group received an extensive presentation on this issue; an agency trip will be scheduled in January to look at the options
- Ice Harbor full-flow PIT – on schedule for operation this spring
- Transition pool designs – these are coming together; lamprey access is a concern
- High-velocity separator – preliminary high-density fish test results presented; the separator worked well, better than other designs

Rod Woodin noted that there are several upcoming SRWG subgroup meetings that Tom Lorz, in particular, needs to be aware of; Shutters replied that the dates for those meetings have

not yet been set, with the exception of the McNary modernization meeting scheduled in late September. Shutters said he will provide the dates of those meetings to SCT once they are available.

3. SRWG Update.

Shutters noted that there is an important FFDRWG meeting to discuss future transportation/in-river passage studies scheduled for August 30 at the Best Western hotel in Walla Walla. Peters noted that the objective of this meeting is to have substantive discussion on each proposed research project, but noted that, given the fact that there will only be about 15 minutes allotted to each proposal, multiple subgroup meetings to discuss the more controversial proposals will be needed. He suggested that any SCT members who plan to attend bring their calendars.

4. Continued Prioritization of FY'05 CRFM Program Measures.

Hevlin distributed a document titled "FY'05 SCT Priorities Score Sheet" (Enclosure C). In it, the salmon managers (ODFW, WDFW, IDFG, CRITFC, NOAA Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service), ranked the highest-priority line-items for each of the eight mainstem dams on a scale of 0-3. Hevlin then summed up the scores for each line-item; scores ranged from 0 (unanimous low priority) to 18 (unanimous high priority). He noted that a number of line-items were suggested for scrubbing. On Pages 4 and 5 of this document, Hevlin listed each of the line-items from highest to lowest, in descending priority. John Kranda then took this priority ranking and attached the most recent cost estimates for each line-item in a separate document (Enc. D); Kranda noted that, according to the best estimate currently available, the SCT should target about $70 million as the FY'05 CRFM budgetary cutoff.

The SCT devoted the rest of today's meeting to a discussion of the newly-prioritized FY'05 CRFM spreadsheet, focusing on those line-items suggested for scrubbing. These included (in descending order of priority):

18s

- 38. Little Goose RSW
- 67. McNary RSW (is a $50,000 placeholder too low for any significant accomplishment? Why not program in more to allow modeling and feasibility studies to begin? ODFW has sent a letter to the Corps on this issue; the Corps will provide a response. Model study still a possibility for FY'05, depending on what the new BiOp says)
- 92. Flood control study (What is the funding source for this study if not CRFM? Corps said CRFM is the likely source of funding; unlikely to happen in FY'05, unless a supplemental amount is approved; may cost up to $35 million)
- System – high-flow PIT detection at spillway and intakes (BPA would still like to pursue)
- Snake River fall chinook survival study (agreed high priority among the salmon managers; should be O&M, rather than CRFM, funded, goal is to evaluate transport survival among fall chinook by PIT tagging and/or above Lower Granite, exact study

design still t.b.d.)

17.5s

- Lower Granite RSW spring/summer RT (new line-item; Corps unsure of cost estimate [$2.05 mil], may be some overlap with lower-rated line-item 41; BPA said cannot support summer spill at this time)

17s

- 1. B2 surface bypass
- 69. The Dalles spillway and sluiceway
- 79. Bonneville high-flow PIT detection in B2 corner collector (may be an opportunity for cost-savings in FY'05, because of one-year delay in implementation of corner collector detection system; still a high priority for implementation, once problems are resolved)

15.5s

- 23. John Day configuration decision document and surface bypass placeholder (break into separate line-items; decision document/RSW component the highest priority for most salmon managers. The group scored the surface bypass placeholder at today's meeting; it generated a net score of 10, above the funding cutoff line)
- 88. PIT tag recovery estuary and avian islands

13.5s

- 4. Bonneville PH2 FGE

13s

- 3. Bonneville juvenile fish passage studies

12.5s

- 41. Lower Granite surface bypass program
- 68. The Dalles spillway modifications (What is the difference between this and line-item 72? Corps said this is not the biological study components; it covers potential physical improvements to the stilling basin, if needed)
- 87. Delayed mortality of juveniles (SCT would like to see a more detailed breakout of this project)

10.5s

- 72. The Dalles spillway improvements study (What is the difference between this line-item and Item 68? Corps said it covers technical/operational studies)

10s

- 2. B2 DSM, monitoring and outfall (need list of items/issues to be worked out)

9.5s

- 70. The Dalles surface bypass/forebay passage (support hydroacoustics, delay, 3-D

tracking)

8.5s

- 17. Ice Harbor survival/efficiency study (is this close-out or balloon-tag work? Close-out work, according to the Corps; any additional work would be RSW-related)

8s

- 81. Adult passage AFEP (cost already reduced from $3 million to $1.19 million, so it's already been scrubbed – essentially, only wrap-up work remains)
- Lower Granite adult trap modifications (why does the trap need modifications? What is the cost? Line-item introduced at the request of the Nez Perce Tribe; would like to quadruple the size of the facility; estimated cost $100,000. Additional congressional approval would be needed, according to the Corps, if the type of work proposed by the Nez Perce is to proceed)

7.5s

- 15. Ice Harbor RSW (low scores indicate comments on decision process)

4.5s

- 91. Snake and McNary decision document (various SCT comments about the deficiencies of and lack of transparency in the process by which this is being developed, though there was general agreement that such forward-looking analysis is valuable)

0s

- 61. Turbine survival above 1% peak efficiency (no funding – why is this on the list?)
- 21. John Day mitigation evaluation (what will the funding be used for?)
- 93. Adult passage temperature effects (not enough information on this item to score it)
- 94. Survival study methods (not enough information on this line-item to score it; the Corps replied that this has to do with finding the best tagging method for fall chinook survival studies; this amount covers close-out costs; additional funding may be needed once a course of action is determined; will likely be a high SCT priority once it has been ranked).

Kranda said the SCT will have further discussion of the items below the $70 million funding cutoff line at the next SCT meeting

5. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next System Configuration Team meeting was set for the **afternoon** of Thursday, September 16. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.